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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONS OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: HUMAN RIGHTS, MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACE PERSONS

Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1997/36 of 11 April 1997, entitled "Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality", the Commission on Human Rights, expressing its deep concern at the arbitrary deprivation of persons or groups of persons of their nationality, especially on racial, national, ethnic or religious grounds, requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and to request their views thereon.

2. A note verbale was addressed, on 20 November 1997, to Governments and a letter to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission.

3. By 30 December 1997, a reply had been received from the Government of Croatia.

4. Replies were received from the following United Nations bodies: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Population Fund.

5. The Centre for International Crime Prevention drew attention to the relevant provisions of the United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Department of Political Affairs referred to a number of publications containing expert analyses of the right of Palestinians to a nationality prepared, inter alia, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and issued by a number of non-governmental organizations. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs submitted two reports on expert workshops, the first, entitled "Ways and means to enhance social protection and reduce vulnerability", was held in New York in November 1997; the second, on "Participation and social justice", was held in London in September/October 1997.

6. Replies were received from the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organization, World Health Organization.

7. Replies were received from the following intergovernmental organizations: International Criminal Police Organization, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of American States.

8. Substantive replies were received from the following non-governmental organizations: Friend's World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), the Jesuit Refugee Service and the Lutheran World Federation.